Import of foodgrains

1849. PROF. C LAKSHMANNA Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has imported foodgrains in 31 out of 38 years since 1950-51 and five year out of eight during 1981-88,

(b) what are the reasons for continous import of foodgrains,

(c) when do we propose to attempt possible elimination of foodgrains altogether; and

(d) what specific steps are proposed to be taken to achieve this goal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D L BAITHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. While upto sixties, recourse had to be made to substantial imports to cover deficits caused by low production and recurrent crop failures, the adoption of new technology in Agriculture, in late sixties has resulted in substantial increase in the domestic production of foodgrains. Thereafter also, imports were resorted to, albeit to a lesser extent except in 1975 and 1976, on actual need basis.

(c) and (d) Indian agriculture is still susceptible to vagaries of weather conditions. Various steps have been taken to reduce the dependence of agriculture on weather which is likely to result in stability and increase in production of foodgrains thus eliminating need for imports, for achieving targetted foodgrain production by the end of Seventh Plan, a special Foodgrains Production Programme was prepared with emphasis on accelerated completion of irrigation projects and adequate availability of inputs like quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, weedicide etc as well as credit. The programme concentrates on increasing production of five items *viz* rice, wheat, maize arhar and gram in 169 districts distributed across 14 States. These districts were especially selected as being the most promising for yielding quick results after taking into account local institutional and production conditions, soil conditions, water availability, land development, fast growth and availability of necessary technological package.

Funds for development of towns in A.P.

1850. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI. Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise amounts sanctioned and disbursed for the development of various towns in Andhra Pradesh during the last three year, and

(b) the details of HUDCO loans sanctioned and disbursed for various projects in the state during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Under the Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns, the following funds were released for identified towns during the last three year —

	Rs in Lakh
1985-86	117.00
1986-87	123.50
1987-88	108.70

(b) The details of loans sanctioned by HUDCO for various projects in Andhra Pradesh are as under:—

	Rs in crores
1985-86	47.63
1986-87	40.30
1987-88	42.61